

20,000 WOMEN TO ATTEND MEETING

Capital Delegates to New York Convention Will Leave Tomorrow.

GO BY SPECIAL TRAIN

Washington Club Members Will Be Entertained by Mrs. Thomas A. Edison.

Washington's delegation to the thirtieth biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, at New York, will leave tomorrow morning by special train over the Pennsylvania Railroad.

A stop will be made at Baltimore to pick up the delegation from that city. At East Orange, N. J., the Washington and Baltimore delegations will be entertained by the New York State Federation.

Tuesday afternoon they will be tendered a reception by Mrs. Thomas A. Edison at her home, and later taken on a tour of inspection of the great laboratories of her husband. The party will arrive in New York late Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Du Pont Will Entertain.

On the return trip, June 2, the Washington delegation will be the guests of Mrs. Coleman Du Pont at a garden party on her estate near Great Neck, Long Island.

Four thousand women, the advance guard of the 20,000 who will attend the biennial, arrived in New York Saturday and have completed preparations for the opening of the convention tomorrow morning. The convention will continue in session until June 2. The 20,000 attendees will be composed of 10,000 delegates from all parts of the country and 10,000 visitors.

Numerous affairs already have been made for the social entertainment of the Washington delegation. Wednesday they will be guests at a luncheon given by Mrs. John Hays Hammond at the Hotel Astor, and Wednesday evening will be devoted to dramatics and music.

Miss Margaret Wilson will be the guest of honor at the official opening reception Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. At 8 o'clock there will be a grand rally at the Seventh Regiment Armory, where the convention will be officially called to order by the president, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker. Mrs. A. H. Hildreth, of New York, will make the address of welcome.

The election of officers will occur on Wednesday and will be followed by the installation of the new officers on Thursday. The most prominently mentioned candidates for president are Mrs. Samuel E. Sneath, of Ohio, and Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, of California.

Mrs. Genevieve Clark Thompson, daughter of Speaker Clark, will be the guest of Mrs. Sneath at many of the federation functions. Mrs. Thompson now is at the National School for women at Chevy Chase.

\$10,000 FOR MULE KICKS.

Damages Said to Have Been Done by Animal Sent to the War.

Kansas City, May 21.—Joseph Smith says a mule kicked him \$10,000 worth. It wasn't an ordinary kick which Smith, a trimmer and shoer, says a mule administered to him in the Guyton & Harrington Mule Company's barns at Keokuk, near Lathrop, Mo., last October. It was a triple kick. First the hoof landed in Smith's abdomen. Then it slipped down to his knee. Then it went still lower and tapped him on the shin.

Probably the mule is no more, as it was shipped off to the battle front from the big war order assembling barns at Lathrop. But the damage it did still abides as permanent injuries, Smith, by his attorney, J. T. Jennings, says in a suit filed against the mule company.

Thirty Girls Enroll in Red Cross.

San Diego, Cal., May 21.—Thirty girls of the San Diego High School have enrolled for a Red Cross organization. Each member has signified her intention of volunteering for service in the event of war.

British Field Armies Full, Conscription for Reserves

Seventy Divisions of 1,400,000 Men to Be Kept at Strength After Germans Run Out of Cannon Fodder—Asquith Compromises Claims of Army and Industry.

By JOHN L. BALDERSON.

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London, April 20.—Secret sessions of Parliament and almost daily cabinet crises have been caused by differences of opinion in the government concerning the advisability of military and industrial compulsion for the men of the nation and by inability to agree on what use should be made of the men who have not yet been enlisted.

The elements of the situation are these: It was decided last winter by the cabinet to maintain in the field, at full strength until the end of the war, 70 divisions of infantry, or 1,400,000 men, and I understand that assurances to this effect were transmitted to the allies.

The war office, which had already drawn up the cadres of these 70 divisions, submitted to the government an estimate of the number of reserves needed to insure that the field army be kept up to strength. What that figure cannot be stated, but it was a very large one, based upon the maximum rate of wastage which Lord Kitchener and Gen. Robertson, chief of the Imperial general staff, decided from the data in their possession must be allowed for.

Estimates Exaggerated.

The estimate was accepted by the government soon after Lord Derby's recruiting scheme had ended, apparently a huge success. It soon became apparent that muddling methods and bad calculating had been responsible for greatly overestimating the number of men which the Derby scheme would produce, and the army council grew nervous and insisted that the men needed must be found by conscription if necessary.

Lord Derby reported at the close of his canvass that 631,160 "single slackers," who were not engaged in "starred" occupations, or "war work," had refused to join his group system, but the law which was passed mustering all eligible single men into the army did not produce anything like this number. Scores upon scores of thousands won exemption from so-called "tribunals" upon personal grounds, forty or fifty thousand "conscientious objectors" were permitted to join for noncombatant work, and it was found that a very large number of the supposed "slackers" were so obviously unfit that they

had not troubled to get themselves turned down by the doctors.

The total number of bachelors forced into the army by the conscription act was less than 200,000.

This upset the calculations of the army council, and it demanded more men, threatening that if it did not get them this summer the seventy divisions, in the event of costly fighting, this summer and autumn, could not be kept at full strength next year, as was promised France and Russia.

Where Trouble Began.

Here the trouble in the government began, for available men in England are getting scarce. Something like 1,500,000 are in the navy or working for the navy, another 1,500,000 are in munition works and more than 3,000,000 are in the army. The supply is not unlimited. Those who are left, influential interests claim, are needed to keep the trade of the country going and thus sustain the credit which is keeping the allies, as well as Britain, in the ring.

The cabinet divided. Lloyd George, minister for munitions, is an out-and-out conscriptionist, opposed by Runciman, president of the board of trade, and McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, who, on behalf of trade and finance, demand that enough men be left in civil life to keep the country solvent. Asquith has devoted all his energies, so far successfully, to trimming.

The present situation indicates that conscription for the married men of military age is inevitable, but that the government has decided that the claim of the army must not be allowed to outweigh other considerations. Lord Derby's report showed that out of the 5,011,441 unenlisted men of military age in the country, excluding Ireland, when he began his canvass last October, about 250,000 married men not engaged on war work refused to join by the middle of December. Conscription, at present, is in force for unmarried men, so these 250,000 married men are all that remain available for the army unless men are taken from so-called "indispensable" occupations.

Mr. Asquith announced in secret session recently that 20,000 of these men must be conscripted. If 20,000 have not been introduced, and if in any week after May 25, for fifteen weeks, 15,000 men do not enlist, the recalcitrant married men will be conscripted. Meanwhile, it seems certain that boys of 15 will be conscripted

as soon as they reach that age, although Asquith was forced to withdraw a bill to this effect yesterday in view of the clamor against forcing boys to fight while the 750,000 married men still hold out.

Number Wanted.

The point to note about this is that the government only asks for 200,000 married men. This means that it is willing that the other 550,000, of whom perhaps 250,000 are unit, should escape, evidently the pleas from commercial leaders and bankers not to drain the country's industries of men have had some weight as against the army chiefs.

The seventy British divisions which it may be assumed are now in the field are not, of course, all in France. There are troops in Egypt, perhaps eight divisions; possibly India has six divisions; there are not less than six divisions in Mesopotamia; probably one in East Africa, and, according to the Germans, two at Salonika. The rest may be under Sir Douglas Haig on the western front. The seventy divisions do not include troops at home or in Ireland. A considerable army under Sir John French is always ready to repulse an invasion from across the North Sea, but the existence of this force here is not really a handicap to the army in France, for the home armies

simply consist of reserve battalions for the armies at the front, and drafts are sent from here to France as needed. The same applies to troops now in Ireland. The strategy of the British leaders is obvious. They know the German units must begin to decline in strength before the end of the present campaign, if they have not done so already, and they aim at having seventy divisions of trained soldiers in the field, if necessary, a year and a half from now, when the German man power will have run out and the German army be falling to pieces.

By this means, it is thought, ultimate victory is insured. It would have been possible to put 100 or 120 divisions in the field this summer, but if this had been done there would be no reserves to fill the gaps if the campaign lasts over another year. And England must look to the day when the magnificent armies of France may be exhausted.

She is "playing the war safe."

Educator Going to China.

New York, May 21.—Prof. R. M. McElroy, head of the department of history and politics at Princeton University, will leave for Peking May 30 to act as exchange professor at the Imperial Tsing Hua College.

WOMEN IN A PANIC.

Two Mice in a Street Car Caused All the Trouble.

Portland, Ore., May 21.—Forty high school girls, stenographers and older women on their way to Portland recently were thrown into a panic when two mice invaded a Seilwood street car. In the ensuing confusion two girls fainted, several tried to leap from the car and a number sustained bruises and scratches. After five minutes of feminine screaming, mostly from safe places on the tops of seats, two men caught the mice and the car moved on. The mice were discovered on the floor of the car by a schoolgirl, who screamed and led the general scramble for places on top of the seats, thus starting the panic.

Mends Cracked Egg.

Milton, Ind., May 21.—W. H. Parkins, a druggist here, was handling a setting of eggs in an incubator at his store some time ago and accidentally cracked one. Mr. Parkins closed the broken shell with a piece of adhesive plaster and replaced the egg in the incubator. The egg hatched, the chicken being the first of the brood to come forth.

Two Cartridges Failed; Third Killed.

Reading, Pa., May 21.—After he had twice pulled the trigger on defective cartridges, Daniel B. Rick, fifty years old, well-known florist of Sinking Spring, found a third bullet from his revolver effective and committed suicide yesterday with a shot through the head. Ill health is given as the cause.



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